



Celebrating 125 Years
of Engineering the Future

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IEEE and Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society Sign Merger Agreement

PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, 24 February, 2009 – IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional society, signed a merger agreement with the honor society ETA Kappa Nu (HKN), a nonprofit, public-service organization comprising nearly 200 university chapters, 14 February 2009. The merger, which will go into effect by mid-2009 pending final approval, will make HKN the official honor society of IEEE, recognizing scholarship and academic excellence and identifying student leaders, young professionals and eminent scholars in the IEEE’s technical fields of interest.

Under the agreement, HKN will become an organizational unit of IEEE, governed by the new IEEE-HKN Board of Governors. A restricted endowment will be created in the IEEE Foundation to support HKN’s educational, societal, and recognition activities. In addition to holding HKN’s current assets, the new endowment will receive an initial donation of US\$1.2M from IEEE.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Bruce Eisenstein, President of HKN; Dr. Richard Gowen, President of the IEEE Foundation; and Dr. John Vig, IEEE President and CEO, during the IEEE meeting series in Puerto Rico, at a ceremony attended by more than 200 members of IEEE and ETA Kappa Nu. The pending merger was approved by HKN chapters and the HKN Board of Governors; the IEEE Assembly (representing the members of IEEE) and IEEE Board of Directors; and the Board of Directors of the IEEE Foundation.

“Upon the merger, we expect that HKN will strengthen and flourish. It will attract and retain exceptional students and young professionals from all over the world, and from all technical fields of interest of IEEE,” said Dr. John Vig, IEEE President and CEO. “IEEE is committed to make HKN the exemplary leading honor society in engineering, science and computing.”

The IEEE and HKN merger will extend the relationship between the two organizations that spans nearly a century of cooperation. IEEE and HKN currently hold joint award and recognition ceremonies, and a large number of service activities are organized jointly by IEEE student branches and HKN chapters. These activities include tutoring to students, outreach to high schools, and sponsorship of technical competitions and scientific presentations.

“Over the last few years it became clear that IEEE and HKN will be able to enhance each other in terms of their scope of activities and their appeal to students and young professionals. Both organizations will end up winners,” said Bruce Eisenstein, President of HKN.

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About IEEE

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.), the world's largest technical professional society, is commemorating its 125th anniversary in 2009 by "Celebrating 125 Years of Engineering the Future" around the globe. Through its more than 375,000 members in 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Dedicated to the advancement of technology, IEEE publishes 30 percent of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields, and has developed nearly 900 active industry standards. The organization annually sponsors more than 850 conferences worldwide. Additional information about IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org>.

About ETA KAPPA NU

Founded on October 28, 1904, HKN is a membership organization dedicated to encouraging and recognizing excellence in the electrical and computer engineering fields. HKN is a nonprofit, public-service organization comprising nearly 200 university chapters, close to 1000 active member volunteers, and approximately 100,000 living inductees. Members consist of students, alumni and other professionals who have demonstrated exceptional academic and professional accomplishments. Additional information about HKN can be found at <http://www.hkn.org>.

About the IEEE Foundation

The IEEE Foundation cultivates resources and relationships to advance IEEE's core purpose to foster technological innovation and excellence to benefit humanity. The IEEE Foundation fulfills its purpose by: (1) awarding grants to new and innovative projects that seek to improve the worldwide technological literacy of society from childhood through adulthood, and (2) serving as the fund administrator for educational, historical preservation, and peer recognition programs of IEEE units. Additional information about the IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/foundation>.